NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis champions greater transparency, public access to Legislature

February 24, 2025 . 1:00 PM — 2 min read

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis:

State Sen. Jason Lewis joined colleagues in the Massachusetts Se
unanimously approve updated legislative rules for the new 2025-2026

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session that would increase transparency and public accessibility to the Legislature.

The Senate passed updated Senate-specific rules that will go into effect immediately. The Senate also passed proposed Joint Rules for their collaboration with the House of Representatives; these will now need to be reconciled with a Joint Rules proposal from the House before taking effect.

"Building greater trust and confidence in our government by improving transparency and accountability is critical for a healthy democracy," said Lewis. "I have long championed efforts to improve the transparency of state and local government, including being the lead Senate sponsor of the last major update to the state's public records law. These updated Senate and Joint Rules will further open up the legislative process and make it easier for the public to see how we operate and to hold us accountable."

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Highlights of the updated Senate-specific rules include:

• Requiring that all votes taken by Senators in joint committees be posted online. The Senate already requires Senate committee votes to be posted online.

• Requiring that all public written or in-person testimony received by Senate members of a joint committee be posted online. The Senate already requires testimony to Senate committees to be posted online.

• Requiring Senate committees to make bill summaries available online for legislation reported favorably out of the committee. Summaries from the Senate Ways and Means Committee have long been provided to S and members of the public who ask for them, but this provision make the same information easily available online.

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• Requiring every senator and Senate employee to undergo cybersecurity training every legislative session. This would be in addition to anti-harassment training, implicit bias training, and ethics training which are already required.

Highlights of the Senate's updated Joint Rules proposal include:

• Requiring bill sponsors to provide public bill summaries for every bill they file.

• Increasing notice time for joint committee public hearings from a minimum of three days to five days to give stakeholders and the public more time to prepare.

• Moving up the deadline for joint committees to report out bills earlier in the legislative session to improve the efficient flow of legislation.

• Requiring that at least the first meeting of a conference committee be open to the public and media for greater transparency.

• Requiring at least one full day between a conference committee report filing and a floor vote in order to allow more time for review.

• Reforming joint committees to enable Senate and House members to vote only on their respective branch bills to help prevent deadlock and speed up the flow of legislation.

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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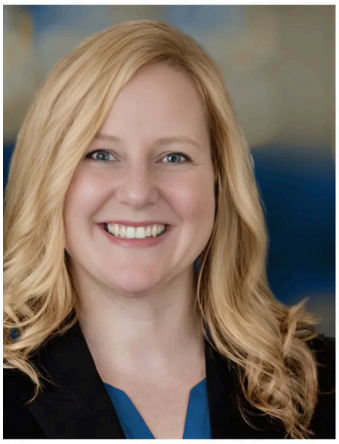

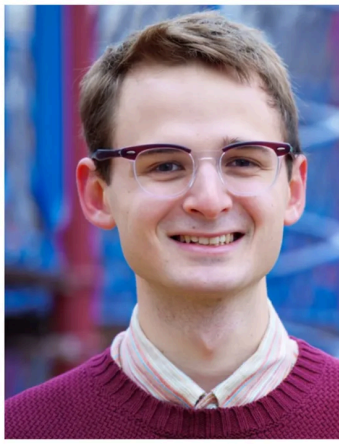

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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